



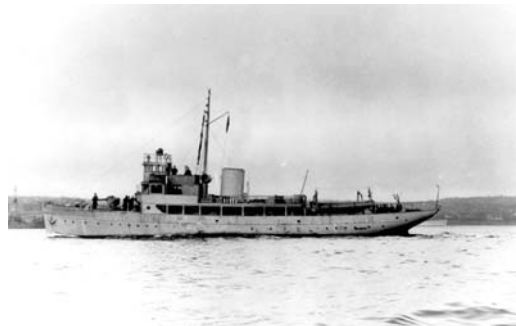
On this day in the Canadian Navy!



SEPTEMBER

- September 01, 1914 The cruiser HMCS *Niobe* reports ready for duty even though she had been acquired for training and not for war.
- September 01, 1938 The Basset Class minesweeper HMCS *Fundy* (J88) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 27 July 1945.
- September 01, 1939 Germany invades Poland, ostensibly to free Germans being subjugated in Poland. Britain and France try to negotiate a settlement. In Canada, an Order-in-Council is passed declaring that a state of 'apprehended war' exists in Canada, and had existed since 25 August 1939. The Royal Canadian Navy, Royal Canadian Navy Reserve and Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve are placed on active service.
- September 01, 1942 While escorting convoy SC-97, the minesweeper HMCS *Morden* (J170) attacks the submarine *U-756*. Unbeknownst to her, she destroys the U-boat, and it would be long after the war ended before the ship will be credited with the kill.
- September 01, 1944 The frigates HMCS *Saint John* (K456) and HMCS *Swansea* (K328) destroy the submarine *U-247* after a 24-hour encounter near Land's End.
- September 02, 1940 The destroyer HMCS *Skeena* (D59 later I59) rescues 20 crewmen from British merchant ship *SS Thornlea*.
- September 02, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Glace Bay* (K414) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She will be paid off 17 November 1945.
- September 2, 1955 After being converted into Prestonian Class escort, the frigate HMCS *Outremont* (310) re-commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She will be paid off 7 June 1965.
- September 03, 1939 Britain and France declare war on Germany. On the evening of the 3rd of September, the liner *SS Athenia* is torpedoed west of Ireland. One of the survivors of another torpedoing, this time of the *SS Eastern Prince* is C. D. Howe, who will later serve as the driving force in organizing Canadian war materials production.
- September 04, 1943 The first draft of 'Wrens' leave for service in Britain.

- September 05, 1918 The Government authorizes the entry of about 80 suitable young cadets between the ages of 17 ½ and 26 years, and about 1,000 ratings into the Air Service.
- September 06, 1917 The cruiser HMCS *Niobe* is paid off for disposal, but subsequently converted to Depot Ship. She is paid off 31 May 1920.
- September 06, 1940 Immediately after the loss of the destroyer HMCS *Fraser* (H48), negotiations begin with the Admiralty for the purchase of a replacement. On the 6th of September 1940, the destroyer HMCS *Margaree* (H49) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is lost in collision 22 October 1940.
- September 07, 1939 The Royal Canadian Navy is informed that the “Admiralty intends that convoys should be started from Halifax, Kingston (Bermuda) and Sierra Leone as soon as possible. Convoys from Halifax and Kingston will be approximately 30 ships and must be capable of a good average speed of 8 knots. Senior Officer Halifax and Caribbean Sea Force is to provide whatever escort is necessary and possible from the forces available.”



HMCS *Raccoon* (DND Photo)

- September 07, 1942 The armed yacht HMCS *Raccoon* is torpedoed by the submarine *U-165* while escorting convoy QS-33 in the Straits of Belle-Isle. The entire crew was lost.
- September 07, 1943 The escort aircraft carrier HMS *Nabob* (D77) commissions into the Royal Navy with a predominantly Canadian crew. She is paid off 10 October 1944 following extensive torpedo damages.
- September 08, 1914 The sloop HMCS *Shearwater* commissions as a tender for submarines *CC-1* and *CC-2*. Together they provide protection against a German cruiser which had been reported to be in the area. The reported German ship proved to be a myth.
- September 09, 1941 The corvette HMCS *Dunvegan* (K177) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 6 July 1945.
- September 09, 1944 The frigate HMCS *Dunver* (K03) and corvette HMCS *Hespeler* (K489) sink the submarine *U-484* off the Hebrides Islands while engaged in convoy escort.

- September 09, 1995 The Halifax Class frigate HMCS *Charlottetown* (339) commissions in Charlottetown, Prince-Edward-Island. She still is service and is stationed at Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- September 10, 1939 At 1240, Canada is officially at war with the German Reich. The Royal Canadian Navy at this time has only thirteen vessels in commission, the east coast 'fleet' comprises the destroyers *Saguenay* (D79 later I79) and *Skeena* (D59 later I59); the minesweepers *Gaspe* (J94) and *Fundy* (J88) and the training schooner *Venture*, and on the west coast the destroyers *St. Laurent* (H83), *Fraser* (H48), *Ottawa* (H60) and *Restigouche* (H00); the minesweepers *Armentieres* (J29), *Comox* (J64) and *Nootka* (J35) and the motor vessel *Skidegate*.
- September 10, 1941 While escorting convoy SC-42, the corvettes HMCS *Moose Jaw* (K164) and HMCS *Chambly* (K115) sink the submarine *U-501* by ramming.
- September 10, 1941 The corvette HMCS *Kenogami* (K125) damages the submarine *U-85*.
- September 10, 1945 The destroyer HMCS *Crescent* (R16 and later 226) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 1 April 1970.
- September 10, 1994 The Halifax Class frigate HMCS *Fredericton* (337) commissions in Saint John, New Brunswick. She still is service and stationed in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- September 11, 1942 The corvette HMCS *Charlottetown* (K244) is torpedoed in the St-Lawrence River; 55 survivors rescued.
- September 11, 1943 The River Class frigate HMCS *Dunver* (K03) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She will be paid off 23 January 1946.
- September 12, 1945 HMCS *Micmac* (R10 and later 214), first of the Canadian-built Tribal Class destroyers, commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 31 March 1964.
- September 13, 1941 The corvette HMCS *Drumheller* (K167) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 5 July 1945.
- September 13, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Prestonian* (K662) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She will be paid off 9 November 1945.
- September 14, 1939 The destroyer HMS *Foxhound*, later to become HMCS *Qu'appelle* (H69) shares in the sinking of the submarine *U-39* off the Hebrides Islands, the first official U-boat 'kill' of the war.



The destroyer HMCS *Ottawa* (H60) circa 1940 (DND Photo)

- September 14, 1942 The destroyer HMCS *Ottawa* (H60) is torpedoed and sunk by the submarine *U-91* while on convoy duty in the North Atlantic with a loss of 114 of her crew. *Ottawa*, one of the six original destroyers with which Canada starts the war, is torpedoed about midnight. There is every hope that she will survive, for the torpedo seems to not have done vital injury, and she remains afloat and on an even keel. However, between the time that her escort departs to help the crew of a torpedoed merchantman and *Ottawa* can get underway, another torpedo strikes the ship and she goes down quickly. By the time rescue arrives, five officers and 109 ratings are lost.
- September 14, 1945 A Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) Half Company is raised in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. This unit later becomes HMCS *Queen Charlotte*. The unit is off in 1964 but re-commissions in 1994.
- September 14, 1963 The destroyer HMCS *Qu'appelle* (264) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off 4 April 1992.
- September 15, 1939 The destroyers HMCS *St. Laurent* (H83) and *Fraser* (H48) arrive in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from Esquimalt, British Columbia.
- September 15, 1941 President Roosevelt orders American warships to shoot on sight U-boats found between Iceland and eastern seaboard of the United States.
- September 16, 1910 The cruiser HMCS *Niobe* commissions in Devonport United Kingdom. Commander W.B. Macdonald, Royal Navy, a native of British Columbia, is in command.
- September 16, 1939 HX-1. the first convoy of Second World War sails from Halifax, Nova Scotia, consisting of 18 ships and is escorted by the destroyers HMCS *St. Laurent* (H83) and *Saguenay* (D79 later I79).
- September 17, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Poundmaker* (K675) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She will be paid off 25 November 1945.



- September 17, 1994 Having been paid off decades before, HMCS *Queen Charlotte* re-commissions as a Naval Reserve Division in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.
- September 18, 1939 A Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) Division is raised in Kingston, Ontario. This unit becomes HMCS *Cataraqui*.
- September 19, 1939 The Canadian Government approves the first of three shipbuilding plans. There is a pervading sense of urgency associated with the building of ships thanks to the *Athenia* incident.
- September 19, 1941 The first loss of a Canadian corvette. HMCS *Levis* (K115) was part of the escort for convoy SC-44, and in the early hours of September 19th, a torpedo strikes her forward on the port side, ripping the ship open to within 40 feet (12.2 m) of the stern, and killing seventeen men.
- September 19, 1952 The Porte Class gate vessel HMCS *Porte Québec* (185) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She will be well known to generations of Naval Reservists. She pays off 19 December 1996.
- September 20, 1943 The destroyer HMCS *St. Croix* (I81) is sunk by a German acoustic torpedo with only 81 survivors. Later, HMS *Itchen*, which rescued the *St. Croix*'s survivors, will also be lost, taking all but one of the remaining *St. Croix*'s crew with her.
- September 20, 1949 HMCS *Cabot* commissions as a Naval Reserve Division in St. John's, Newfoundland.
- September 20, 1954 After being converted into Prestonian Class escort, the frigate HMCS *Jonquiere* (318) re-commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She will be paid off 23 September 1966.
- September 21, 1996 HMCS *Kingston* (700), first of class of the Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels, commissions in Kingston, Ontario. She is stationed in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- September 23, 1940 In response to a manning crisis, a Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) officer's training program was started in Halifax, picking up where the training establishment HMCS *Stone Frigate* had left off. This program will evolve into HMCS *Kings*, the famous officers training establishment.

- September 23, 1965 HMCS *Ojibwa*, the first of three Oberon class submarines, built for Canada in Her Majesty's Dockyard Chatham, England, commissions. She is paid off on 21 May 1998 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- September 24, 1940 The destroyers HMCS *Annapolis* (I04), *Columbia* (I49), *Niagara* (I57), *St. Clair* (I65) and *St. Francis* (I93) commission into the Royal Canadian Navy. They are paid off 4 June 1945, 12 June 1945, 15 September 1945, 23 August 1944 and 11 June 1945 respectively.
- September 24, 1940 The destroyer HMCS *St. Croix* (I81) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is sunk by acoustic torpedo 20 September 1943.
- September 24, 1955 The destroyer HMCS *Sioux* (225) returns to Esquimalt, British Columbia, the last Canadian ship to leave Korea.
- September 25, 1940 German merchant ship *Weser* is captured by the armed merchant cruiser HMCS *Prince Robert* off Manzanillo, Mexico, and becomes Canada's first prize of the Second World War. *Weser* later to become SS *Vancouver Island*, is subsequently torpedoed and lost.
- September 25, 1959 After being converted into Prestonian Class escort, the frigate HMCS *Victoriaville* (320) re-commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She is paid off on 31 December 1973.
- September 26, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Sea Cliff* (K344) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She will be paid off 28 November 1945.
- September 27, 1952 The destroyer HMCS *Haida* (215) sails for her first tour of duty in United Nations Korean operations.
- September 27, 1953 The icebreaker HMCS *Labrador* (50) arrives at Esquimalt, British Columbia, the first naval and deep draught vessel to negotiate the Northwest Passage.
- September 28, 1963 The replenishing ship HMCS *Provider* (508) commissions in Lauzon, Quebec. She is paid off on 24 June 1998 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



The Frigate HMCS *Ottawa* (341) (DND Photo)

- September 28, 1996 The Halifax Class frigate HMCS *Ottawa* (341) commissions in Cornwall, Ontario. She still is service and stationed in Esquimalt, British Columbia.
- September 29, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Strathadam* (K682) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She will be paid off 7 November 1945.
- September 30, 1939 By the end of September, forty ships totalling 150,000 tons are sunk by mine or torpedo in the approaches to the British Isles.
- September 30, 1944 The River Class frigate HMCS *Cap de la Madeleine* (K663) commissions into the Royal Canadian Navy. She will be paid off 25 November 1945.
- September 30, 1962 VP870, the McDonnell F2H-3 Banshee fighter squadron at Shearwater, Nova Scotia, disbands.
- September 30, 1972 The destroyer HMCS *Athabaskan* (282) commissions into the Canadian Navy in Lauzon, Quebec. She is still in service.
- September 29, 1990 HMCS *Prevost*, the Naval Reserve Division in London, Ontario, is recommissioned.
- September 30, 1994 The Halifax Class frigate HMCS *Regina* (334) commissions in Esquimalt, British Columbia. She still is service and stationed in Esquimalt.